

DYNAMIC CRITERIA BASED LINE-GROUPING MECHANISM AND METHOD FOR PURCHASE ORDER GENERATION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A mechanism and method for dynamic criteria-based line grouping for generating purchase orders within a software procurement system. The software system includes a data structure containing line items of a requisition. Each line item contains criteria that can be used to sort the line item to a particular purchase order, e.g., the criteria could include (1) information regarding the supplier, (2) the billed-to address, (3) the send-to address and (4) the currency used to purchase the line item. A configuration file (LGU file) contains the criteria by which the line items are sorted into purchase orders. This configuration can be dynamically altered by the user at any time thereby altering the manner in which the line items are sorted into purchase orders. A line_group table indicates which line items are grouped within a particular purchase order based on the dynamic configuration of the LGU file. A order_header table relates a line_group table to a requisition. A "host PO" object exists within a line_group table and can represent all line items of a requisition for efficient line item processing.